

Message Text

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ORIGIN DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00 PM-04

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DRAFTED BY D/HA:FASIEVERTS

APPROVED BY EA - ROBERT MILLER

EA/VLC - MR. ROSENTHAL

EA/VLC - MR. SPEAR

D/HA - MR. WILSON

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 240289

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, VS

SUBJECT: AMERICANS IN VIETNAM: GAY AND GOUGELMANN

REFS: A) BANGKOK 26635; B) BANGKOK 26484; C) BANGKOK 26332;

D) USDAO BANGKOK MESSAGE TO JCRC 230319Z SEP 75; E) STATE

237068

1. REF A-D REPORTS MUCH APPRECIATED. WE ARE GLAD TO HAVE
REPORTING ON ARLO GAY'S EXPERIENCE, AND ARE DISTRESSED BY
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REF. A REPORT (BEING REPEATED TO CANBERRA) THAT TUCKER

GUGELMANN MAY HAVE DIED IN CHI HOA PRISON IN MID-AUGUST.

2. DESPITE THIS REPORT, WE BELIEVE EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF GUGELMANN SUGGESTED REF. E SHOULD GO FORWARD.

3. REGARDING GAY, WE ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN HIS ESCAPE WHILE IN NORTH VIETNAM AND WOULD APPRECIATE ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON HOW HE MANAGED TO ELUDE RECAPTURE, ESPECIALLY SINCE HE DOES NOT APPEAR FROM HIS PHOTOGRAPHS TO LOOK AT ALL VIETNAMESE.

4. WE NOTE THAT EARLIER AUSTRALIAN REPORT REFERRED TO A PHOTOGRAPH BEING CIRCULATED IN HANOI IN JULY, 1976 OF A MAN WITH A BEARD. SUGGEST YOU ASK GAY IF HE HAD A BEARD WHILE IN CAPTIVITY AND WHETHER HE RECALLS BEING PHOTOGRAPHED

5. YOU COULD ALSO POINT OUT TO GAY THAT IT APPEARS HIS STAY AT SON TAY OVERLAPPED WITH DETENTION THERE OF THE 14 U.S. AND THIRD COUNTRY PRISONERS CAPTURED AT BAN ME THUOT IN MARCH 1975, WHO WERE RELEASED IN HANOI ON OCTOBER 30, 1975. AT THE TIME OF THEIR RELEASE, THAT GROUP SAID THEY HAD SEEN AN EXTRA SET OF CLOTHES TO FIT A SLENDER MAN OF MEDIUM HEIGHT, APPARENTLY PREPARED FOR AN ADDITIONAL PRISONER. ON OCTOBER 13, 1975 THEY SAW A VIETNAMESE INTERROGATOR AT SON TAY WHOSE INTEREST WAS ROOTING OUT PRO-US INFRASTRUCTURE IN SVN, BUT WHO DID NOT QUESTION ANY OF THEM. WHEN A PHOTOGRAPHER CAME TO TAKE THEIR PICTURES, THEY OVERHEARD HIM BEING TOLD THERE WERE "15" PERSONS TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW IF GAY WAS AWARE OF THE OTHER AMERICANS AT SON TAY WHILE HE WAS THERE, OR OF THEIR RELEASE ON OCTOBER 30.

6. IF GAY PLANS TRAVEL TO U.S. IN NEAR FUTURE, DEPTOFFS AND STAFF OF SELECT COMMITTEE, WOULD BE GLAD TO TALK TO HIM INFORMALLY AT HIS CONVENIENCE. IF HE IS AGREEABLE TO THIS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED OF HIS TRAVEL PLANS. KISSINGER

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